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April 5, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

UD TO SEAL A TIME CAPSULE ON APRIL 20 TO CELEBRATE CLOSING OF SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DAYTON, Ohio — When Ken Kuntz began planning a celebration to mark the University of Dayton's 150th anniversary, he hoped to find a time capsule buried somewhere on campus that would give him a sense of UD life 50 years ago. He discovered some newspaper clippings, but not much else in the library's archives.

When UD celebrates its bicentennial in 2050, celebration organizers will open a time capsule, a cornucopia of memorabilia reflecting life at the turn of the century. The time capsule, which will be sealed at UD's sesquicentennial closing celebration at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 20, will include a St. Joseph's medal, a signed score of the specially-commissioned sesquicentennial fanfare, Flyer NCAA and NIT ticket stubs, a list of faculty and staff who completed 150 hours or more of volunteer work, a message from the president, winning sesquicentennial essay contest entries and other assorted material "that capture this moment in UD's history," according to Kuntz, a retired psychology professor.

Kuntz and Kara Stencel, president of the Student Government Association, will seal the capsule with a ceremonial wrench at the campus celebration in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center Plaza. The celebration, open to all students, faculty and staff, will include lots of "wonderful food, great bands and fireworks," according to Kuntz.

Richard Finan, president of the Ohio Senate and chair of UD's board of trustees, and Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., UD president, will offer reflections on the history and future of UD. The celebration will feature the premiere of a new piece commissioned for the closing celebration, "Oratium Gratium," created by Bosnian composer Edin Dino Zonic. The 10-minute Latin hymn, meaning "Prayer of Thanks," will be performed by UD's Ebony Heritage Singers and Choral Union, University Chorale and Symphonic Wind Ensemble. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will also perform the "Sesquicentennial Fanfare," Scott Boerma's piece commissioned for the celebration's kick-off in September 1999.

UD will close its sesquicentennial celebration in style: A gala reception will feature 120 dozen smoked chicken quesadillas, 75 dozen crab rangoon, 300 dozen jumbo shrimp, 120 dozen

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buffalo wings, more than 1,000 turkey breast sandwich hors d'oeuvres and assorted cheeses, fruits and snacks.

A music festival showcasing four bands will start at approximately 5 p.m. "Sponge," a regional band, and three University of Dayton bands, "Go Let Go," "Duck Sauce" (winner of UD's recent Battle of the Bands) and the dance band "Kilwein Trio" are scheduled to perform. Hamburgers, hot dogs and other picnic fare will be served during the music festival. The evening will close with a pyrotechnics display at 9 p.m.

"These are four unique bands. They all have their own sound," said Willie Morris, associate professor of music. "They'll draw a big crowd."

UD's sesquicentennial celebration, which spanned two academic years, included a number of high-profile conferences, concerts and events, including the honoring of Elizabeth Dole with UD's first Leadership with Virtue Award and the presentation of Erma Bombeck's papers to her alma mater. UD's Center for Social Concern recruited more than 150 students, faculty, staff and alumni to perform 150 hours of community service. In all, they recorded nearly 11,000 hours of volunteer service, from counseling dying patients to tutoring children. In the academic arena, UD produced several noteworthy symposia, including a conference on the international rights of children and a town hall meeting about law in a wired society. On the lighter side, UD sponsored an ice-cream naming contest with Young's Jersey Dairy, with "sesquiberry" capturing a panel of judges' taste buds.

There will be plenty of new material for the University's archives about this juncture in UD's history. The National Alumni Association published *University of Dayton: From Nazareth to the New Millennium*, a retrospective book that chronicles the first 150 years of UD through more than 350 photographs; Think TV produced a documentary, *Our University on the Hill: The First 150 Years of the University of Dayton*; WDTN-TV devoted one 30-minute segment of its evening's newscast to UD's history and future; the *Dayton Daily News* published a 24-page commemorative tabloid, *University of Dayton: Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership*; three faculty members wrote a history book, *Voices of UD*; and UD's music department produced a compact disc of popular campus music.

By any measure, the University of Dayton has come a long way from unlikely roots. The school began with an act of faith — and no cash — more than 150 years ago. In the middle of a cholera epidemic, the Rev. Leo Meyer, S.M., gave landowner John Stuart a medal of St. Joseph and a promise of \$12,000 at 6 percent interest in return for Dewberry Farm — 125 acres of vineyards, orchards, a mansion and various farm buildings. On July 1, 1850, St. Mary's School for Boys, a frame building that not long before had housed farm hands, opened its doors to 14 primary students from Dayton. Today, UD is the largest independent university in the state and ranks among the largest Catholic universities in the nation.

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For interviews, contact **Ken Kuntz** at (937) 229-3229 or (937) 294-4787 or **Susan Sauer**, chair of the sesquicentennial closing event, at (937) 229-2970.